

Comparisons of Job Characteristics

Focus Occupation: [Physical Therapist Assistants \(31-2021\)](#)

Associated Occupation: [Occupational Therapy Assistants \(31-2011\)](#)

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 85

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)
Associated Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Psychology	6.4	18.0	14.6	<< Extensive education and/or training may be required
Therapy and Counseling	3.8	10.8	15.0	>> Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	10.6	18.4	>> Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	9.2	12.5	>> Current knowledge level is likely more than sufficient
Philosophy and Theology	3.2	7.9	4.8	<< Extensive education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 92

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)
Associated Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Reading Comprehension	10.7	13.3	11.5	< A higher skill level may be required
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	11.1	11.8	0 Current skill level may be sufficient
Service Orientation	7.9	10.2	10.8	0 Current skill level may be sufficient
Negotiation	6.8	8.6	5.8	<< Extensive development of skills in this area may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 94			
Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021) Associated Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)					
Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Oral Expression	12.4	13.9	13.3	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Oral Comprehension	12.5	13.6	13.3	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Problem Sensitivity	11.1	12.2	11.1	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Written Comprehension	11.0	11.9	11.4	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Written Expression	9.8	11.1	10.0	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Speech Clarity	10.2	10.6	11.1	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Deductive Reasoning	10.6	10.5	10.1	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Inductive Reasoning	10.2	10.5	9.7	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Static Strength	5.0	8.2	8.6	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Gross Body Coordination	3.9	5.7	6.6	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient
Stamina	4.0	5.5	6.6	>	Current ability level is likely sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 92
Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021) Associated Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)		
Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity	
Administer medications or treatments	46	
Assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients	84	
Assist patient with dressing, undressing, grooming, or bathing	77	
Construct medical supportive devices	87	
Instruct patient in use of supportive device	87	
Lift or transport ill or injured patients	69	
Maintain dental or medical records	64	
Motivate patients to practice exercises	89	
Observe patient condition	48	
Order or purchase supplies, materials, or equipment	35	
Plan therapy treatment program	77	
Position patient for therapy	70	
Prepare patient reports	66	

Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70
Record medical history or data	68
Schedule meetings or appointments	68
Set up patient care equipment	75
Take vital signs	56
Use knowledge of medical terminology	40
Use massage therapy procedures	81
Use medical equipment in direct patient care	75
Weigh patients	75
Work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses	62

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus
Occupation to Associated
Occupation: 86

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)
Associated Occupation: Occupational Therapy Assistants (31-2011)

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Computer game or entertainment software	33
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Data management and query software	1
Finance accounting and enterprise resource planning ERP software	2
Gait training products	43
Heat and cold therapy products	29
Hydrotherapy products	33
Industry specific software	1
Information exchange software	1
Measuring and layout tools	3
Medical exam size measuring devices	24
Medical staff clothing and related articles	17
Neurological exam products	30
Orthopedic softgoods for lower extremity	33
Orthopedic softgoods for upper extremity and torso	35
Patient lifts	35
Patient transport products	18
Rehabilitation exercise devices and equipment	24
Safety apparel	4
Stethoscopes and related products	14
Vascular and compression therapy equipment and supplies	33
Vision protection and accessories	3

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.